(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Wetlands in many areas undergone spatial reduction because of biotic and abiotic pressures which include anthropogenic activities, uncontrolled siltation, weed infestation, disposal of sewage, surface run-off, chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers and dumping the wastes. However, there are no corroborative evidences of estimated loss of fresh water wetlands in the country.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has been implementing 'National Wetland Conservation Programme' under which 115 wetlands covering 25 States of the country have been identified for providing financial and technical support for undertaking various conservation activities. An amount of Rs. 74.30 crores has been released from 1987-88 till date for conservation and management of identified wetlands in the country for various conservation activities. Further, in pursuance of the provisions in the National Environment Policy, 2006, the Ministry has drafted Regulatory Framework for Conservation and Management of Wetlands and invited comments of all the stakeholders.

Pollution of rivers by industries

1045. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has been conducted regarding the extensive pollution of rivers caused by industrial discharge across the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the number of industrial units found guilty during the survey and the action taken by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), as on January, 2009, 1357 grossly polluting industries with Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) load of 100 kg/day or more, have been identified in the country which discharge their effluents into rivers and lakes. Based on the actions of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, 269 of these industries have been closed and 898 industries have provided requisite treatment/disposal facilities and are operating satisfactorily. The remaining 190 industries have installed treatment plants but these are not performing satisfactorily. Action has been initiated by the State Pollution Control Boards Against these defaulting industries.

Ill-effects of rise in temperature

†1046. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the temperature at sea surface level has increased by 1.5 degree Celsius during the last fifty years and this would cause climatic changes and adversely affect monsoon; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Sea surface temperatures (SST) of most of the oceans have risen in the last fifty years. Available observations show that the temperature rise varies from 0.50°C to 1.0°C for different oceans. Higher SST is likely to enhance the evaporation generally warm the air temperature also. But as the climate processes are very complex, the manner in which future climate shall be driven has large uncertainties, including its effect on monsoon.

(b) The Government of India has formed a "National Action Plan on Climate Change" and under its Strategic Knowledge Mission, several network activities are planned for understanding the gaps in the science of regional scale climate changes. The takes covers a wide spectrum of issues. The Government, through the National Action Plan on Climate Change, proposes to address the overall climate change issue.

Tiger population

†1047. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of Government schemes and Prime Minister himself expressing concern, the population of tigers is decreasing continuously;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of tigers dead and those killed by poachers during last five years; and

(d) the schemes running/being run by Government for the security of tigers and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As per the findings of the recent all India estimation of tiger using the refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the latter. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts. The reasons for decline in population of tigers are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The details of tiger deaths, including poaching, for the last five years is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.